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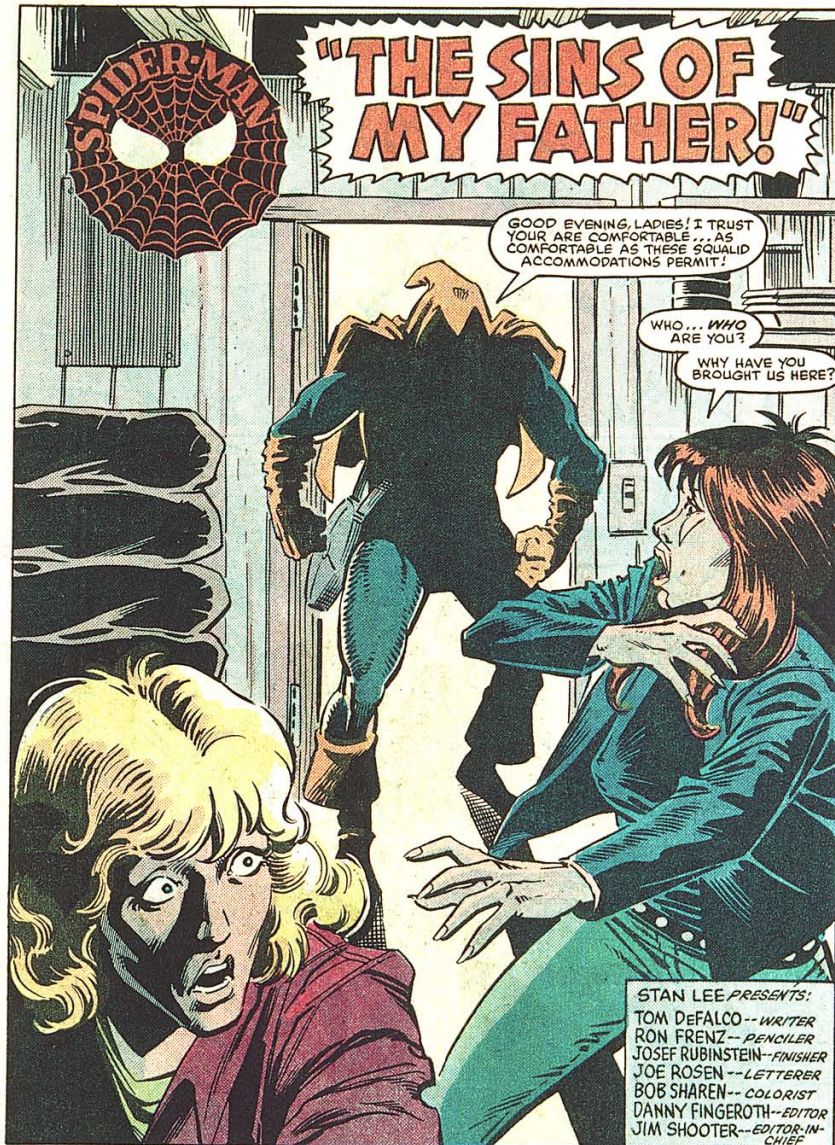
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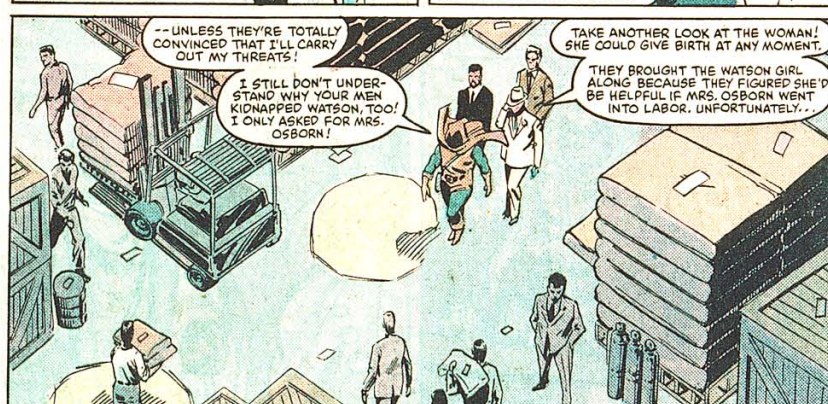
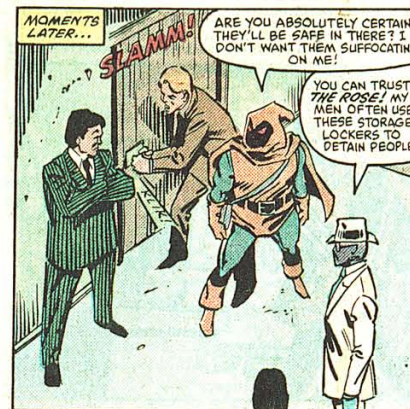
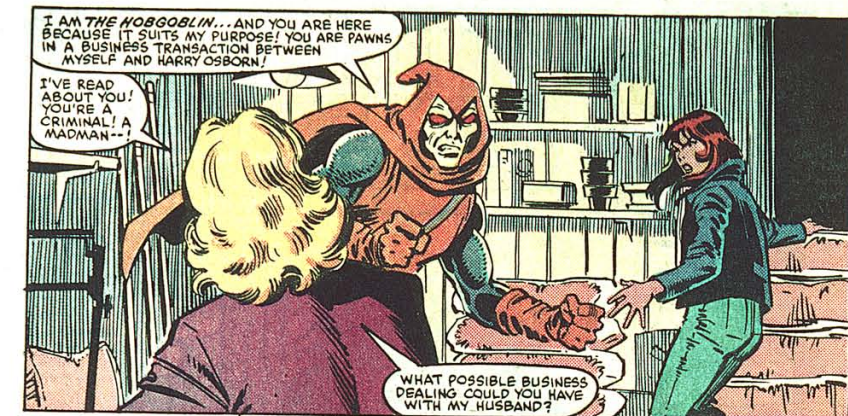


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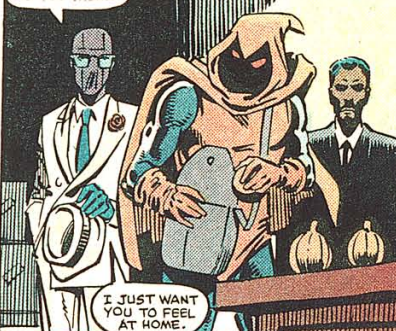
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OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T DREAM OF LEAVING ANYTHING HERE THAT WOULD ENDANGER YOU AND YOUR MEN--JUST SOME SPARE COSTUMES AND A FEW GOBLIN GRENADES!

AS YOU WISH...



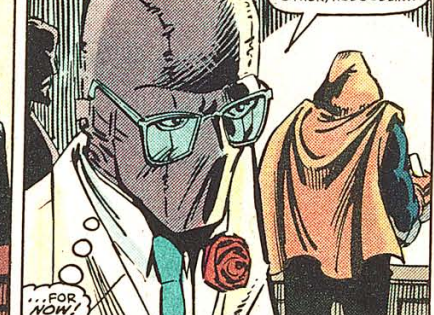
I JUST WANT YOU TO FEEL AT HOME.



HE'LL BRING ME WHAT I WANT!

WE ARE PARTNERS, AFTER ALL. WITH YOUR POWERS AND MY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION, NOTHING CAN STOP US FROM SEIZING CONTROL OF ALL THE MAJOR GAMBLING INTERESTS IN THIS CITY!

WE NEED EACH OTHER, HOBGOBLIN...



...FOR NOW!



HE WOULDN'T DARE RISK THE LIVES OF HIS WIFE AND HIS UNBORN CHILD!

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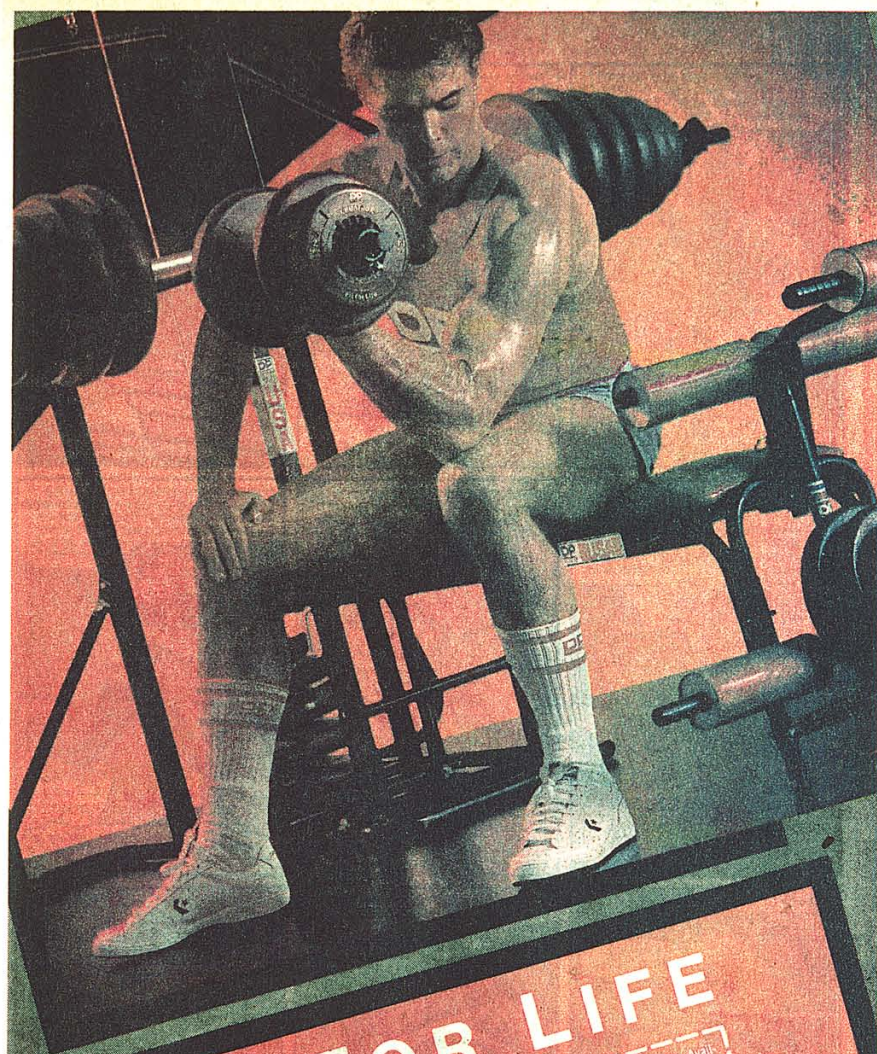
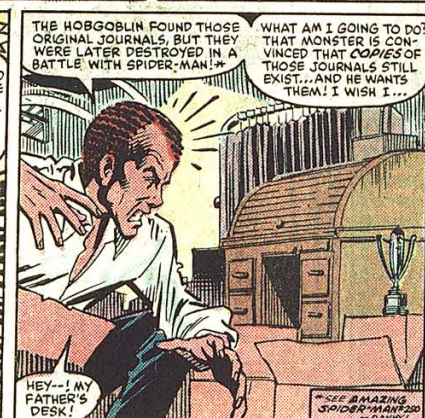
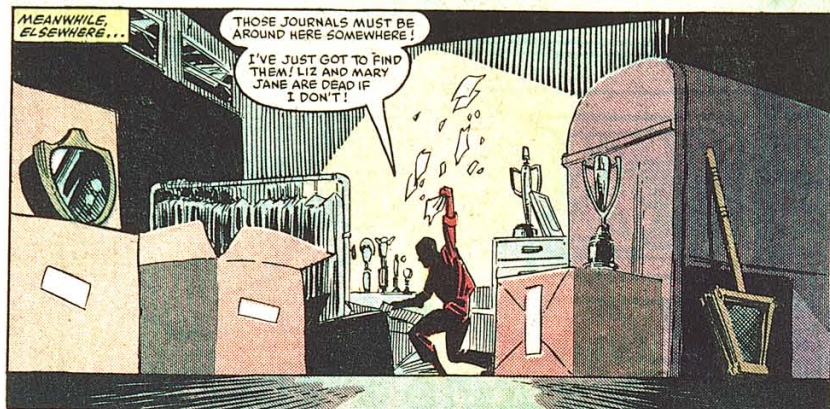
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DAD USED TO LOVE THIS OLD ROLLTOP! IT'S AN ANTIQUE WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM FATHER TO SON FOR FOUR GENERATIONS! I WONDER IF...



UGH! IT'S LOCKED!

THERE MUST BE A KEY TO IT AROUND SOMEWHERE, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO LOOKING FOR IT!



IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, MY FATHER ONCE SHOWED ME A SECRET COMPARTMENT WHICH IS HIDDEN BEHIND THAT WOODEN PANEL...



FIVE SECONDS IS ALL HARRY OSBORN NEEDS TO SMASH THROUGH THE PANEL, AND THEN...

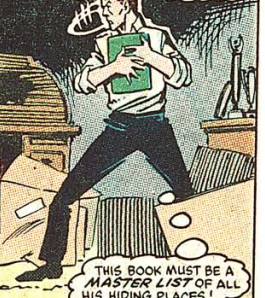
AT LAST! ONE OF MY FATHER'S JOURNALS! I JUST PRAY IT'S ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE HOBGOBLIN!



WHM! IT'S MAINLY DEVOTED TO A LIST OF PROPERTIES! SOME OF THEM SEEM FAMILIAR...



DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THOSE BREAK-INS THE AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED A NUMBER OF SECRET ROOMS... ROOMS WHICH PROBABLY HOUSED MY FATHER'S GREEN GOBLIN EQUIPMENT.



THIS BOOK MUST BE A MASTER LIST OF ALL HIS HIDING PLACES!

MOMENTS LATER...

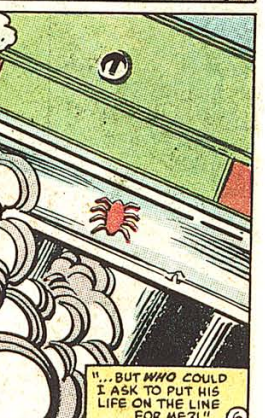


EVENING, MR. OSBORN!

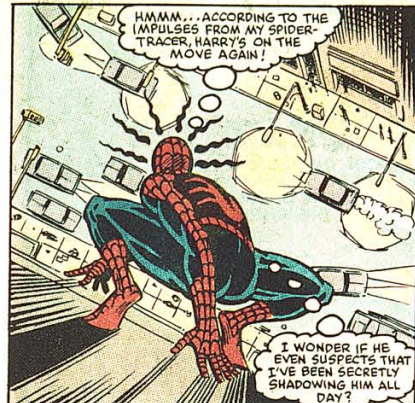
GOOD NIGHT, TED!

I CAN'T BE SURE HOBGOBLIN WILL GIVE ME THE GIRLS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE JOURNAL! I'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED FOR TROUBLE--!

I HATE THE IDEA OF FACING THAT MADMAN ALONE! I WISH I COULD TURN TO SOMEONE... ANYONE... FOR HELP...

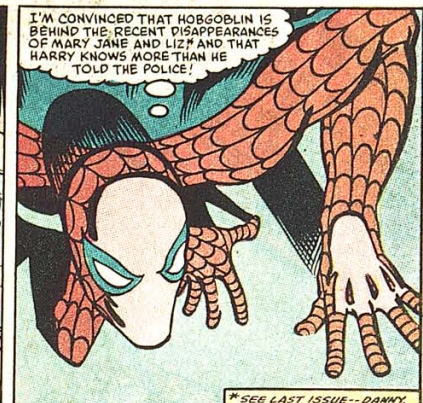


"... BUT WHO COULD I ASK TO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR ME?!"



HMMM... ACCORDING TO THE IMPULSES FROM MY SPIDER-TRACER, HARRY'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

I WONDER IF HE EVEN SUSPECTS THAT I'VE BEEN SECRETLY SHADOWING HIM ALL DAY?



I'M CONVINCED THAT HOBGOBLIN IS BEHIND THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCES OF MARY JANE AND LIZ! AND THAT HARRY KNOWS MORE THAN HE TOLD THE POLICE!

* SEE LAST ISSUE -- DANNY



POOR HARRY! HE REALLY DOESN'T NEED THIS KIND OF GRIEF! THE GUY'S ALREADY HAD ENOUGH SUFFERING TO LAST A LIFETIME!

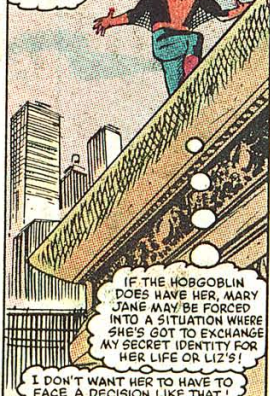
HE WAS COMING OFF A BAD EXPERIENCE WITH DRUGS, WHEN HE FIRST LEARNED HIS FATHER, NORMAN OSBORN, WAS THE ORIGINAL GREEN GOBLIN!

HARRY COULDN'T COPE WITH THE TRUTH! HE HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN... BECAME THE GOBLIN HIMSELF FOR A WHILE --THOUGH HE'S BLANKED OUT THAT TRAUMA!



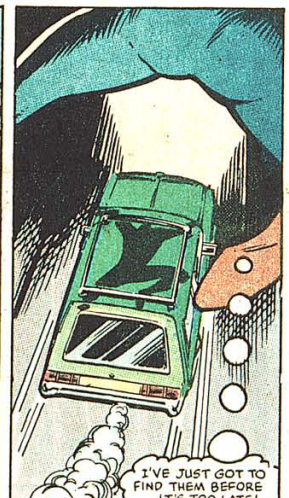
I'D HATE FOR ANYTHING TO PUSH HIM OVER THE EDGE AGAIN!

I'M REAL WORRIED ABOUT THE GIRLS! LIZ IS ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH, AND MARY JANE KNOWS THAT I'M PETER PARKER!



IF THE HOBGOBLIN DOES HAVE HER, MARY JANE MAY BE FORCED INTO A SITUATION WHERE SHE'S GOT TO EXCHANGE MY SECRET IDENTITY FOR HER LIFE OR LIZ'S!

I DON'T WANT HER TO HAVE TO FACE A DECISION LIKE THAT!



I'VE JUST GOT TO FIND THEM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

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INSIDE THE XENO-BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CONTAMINATION CONTAINMENT FACILITY...

THE ENTITY WHICH HAD BEEN SPIDER-MAN'S LIVING COSTUME STIRS AS IF FROM A RESTLESS SLEEP.

IT SENSES A PUZZLING ANOMALY--

-- AN INTRUDER HAS BREACHED FF HEADQUARTERS!

HAVING ALREADY BYPASSED A HUNDRED ALARM SENSORS, THE STRANGE DEVICE HAS GLIDED ON A SEEMINGLY RANDOM PATH THROUGH THE DESERTED BUILDING, EVENTUALLY ARRIVING HERE.

* SEE THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES-- DANNY.

W/V FANTASTIC FOUR #274--DANNY.

CAUTIOUSLY, THE ENTITY TELEPATHICALLY REACHES OUT TO THE MOVING DEVICE...

THE ENTITY'S MENTAL ENTERPRISES APPARENTLY HAVE NO EFFECT BUT THE DEVICE DOES DEEM IT WORTHY OF FURTHER STUDY!

AND THEN...

PROBING!
PROMPTING!
SUGGESTING!

A MICRO-DRILL BEGINS BORING AN INVISIBLE SMALL HOLE IN THE ENTITY'S PLASTEL CYLINDER...

INSTANTLY SEIZING THIS UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY THE ENTITY BURSTS FORWARD!

AT LAST!
AT LONG LAST, IT IS FREE AGAIN!

FREE!

AND LET SPIDER-MAN BEWARE--!

8

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THIS TOWN'S GOING BONKERS!

SOMETHING FRUITY IS GOING ON AROUND HERE!

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WATCH FOR FALLING BONKERS

BONK!

I'VE HEARD OF BIG FRUIT TASTE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

BONKERS! NEW! BERRY FRUIT CANDY

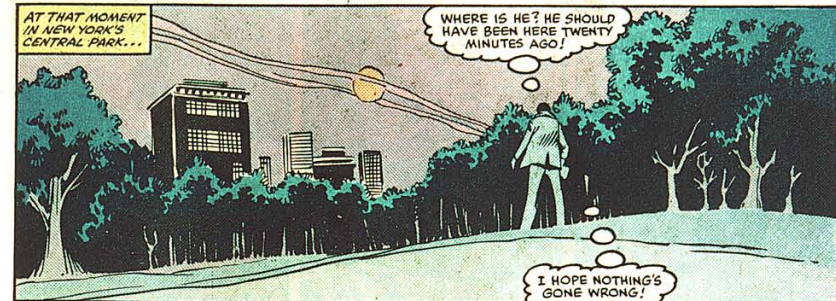
BONKERVILLE POP: BONKED OUT!

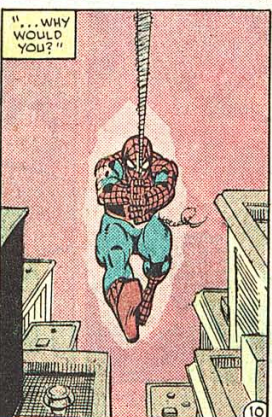
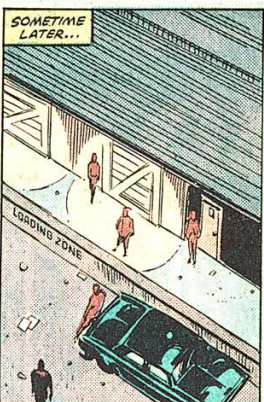
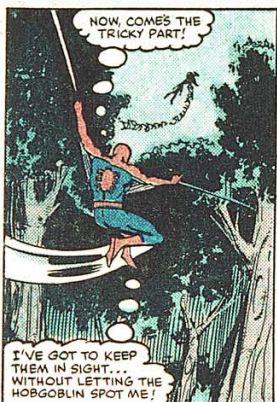
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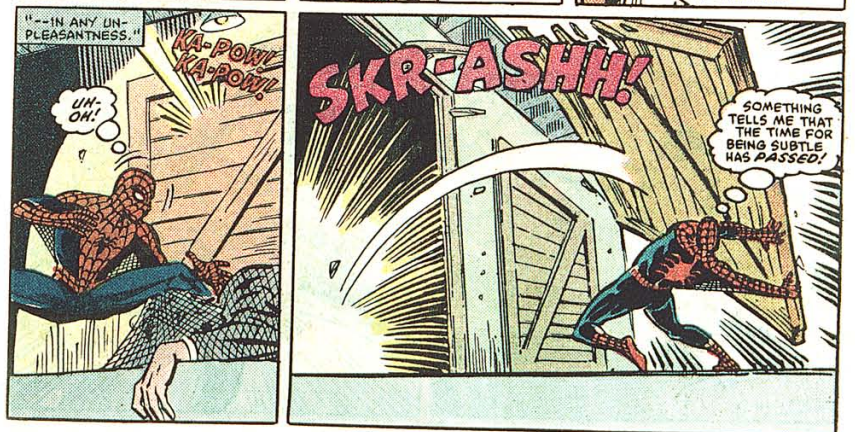
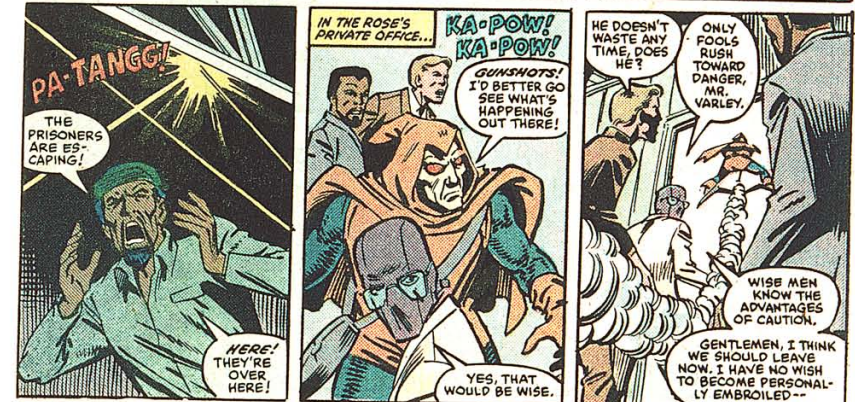
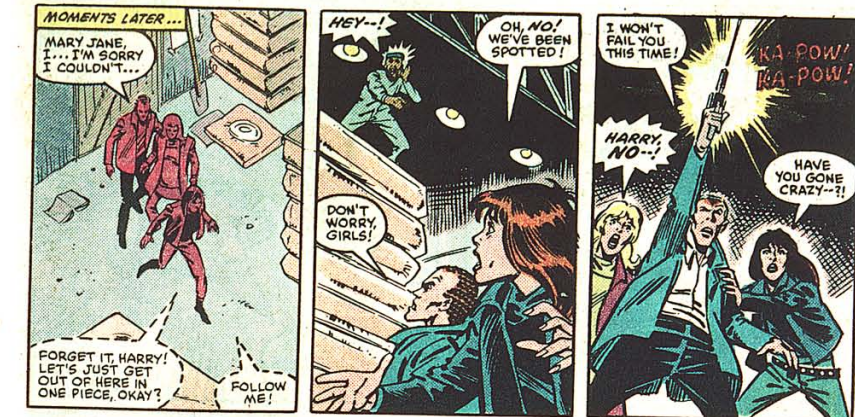
BONKS YOU OUT!

ALL 3 FLAVORS BONK ME OUT!

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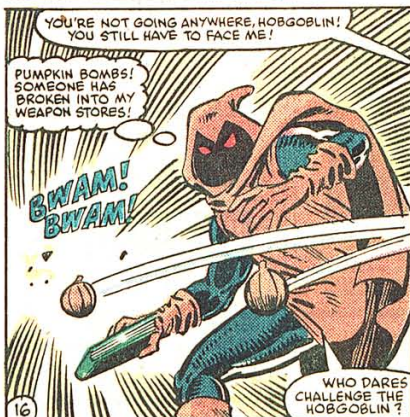
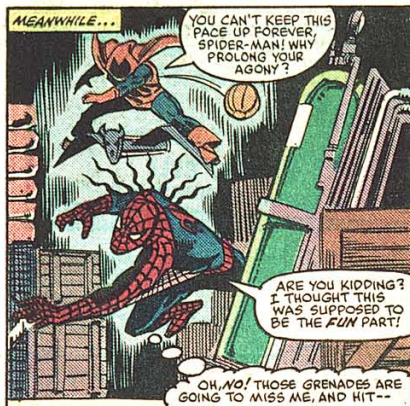
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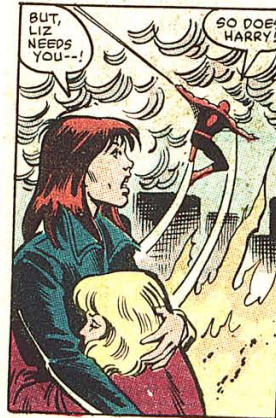
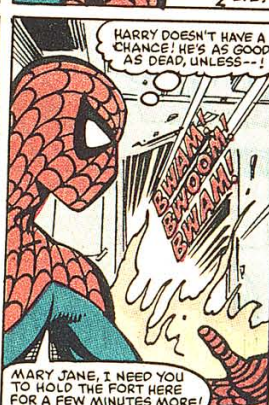
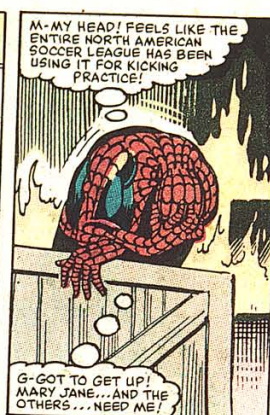
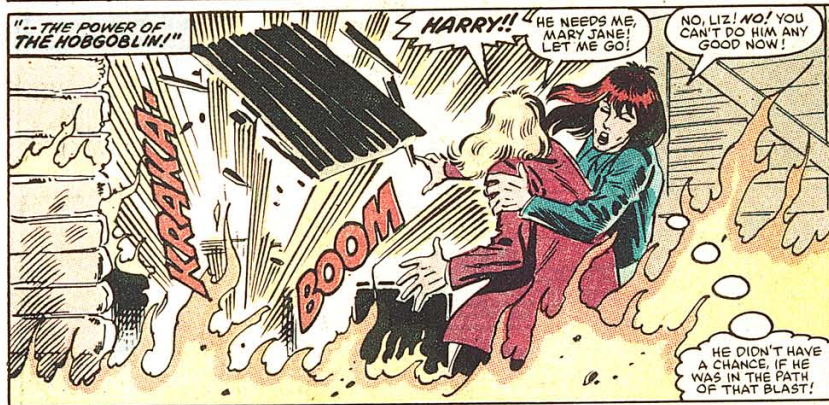
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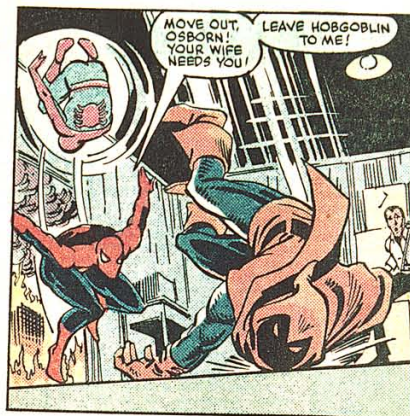
Once a monstrous evil threatened the Earth.
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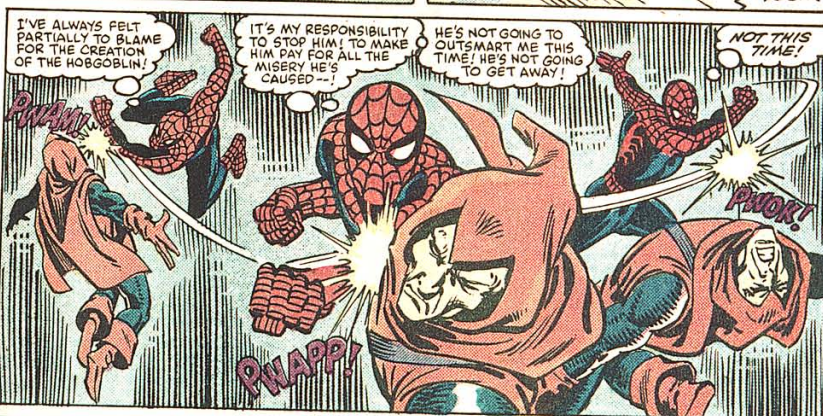


MOVE OUT, OSBORN! YOUR WIFE NEEDS YOU!

LEAVE HOBGOBLIN TO ME!

I MANAGED TO CATCH HIM BY SURPRISE, BUT I CAN'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO RECOVER!

HE'S ALMOST AS STRONG AS I AM! I'LL HAVE TO HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!



I'VE ALWAYS FELT PARTIALLY TO BLAME FOR THE CREATION OF THE HOBGOBLIN.

IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP HIM; TO MAKE HIM PAY FOR ALL THE MISERY HE'S CAUSED --!

HE'S NOT GOING TO OUTSMART ME THIS TIME! HE'S NOT GOING TO GET AWAY!

NOT THIS TIME!



SPIDER-MAN'S GOING WILD! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM CUT LOOSE LIKE THAT BEFORE!

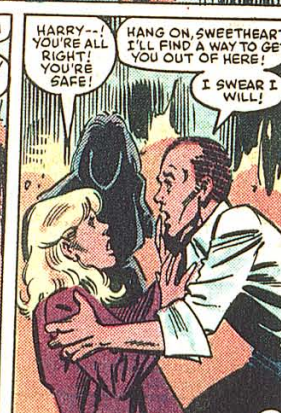
LIZ--! MARY JANE--!

WE'RE OVER HERE!



I CAN BARELY SEE THEM THROUGH THE SMOKE AND FLAMES!

HURRY--! THE BABY'S COMING!



HARRY--! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE SAFE!

HANG ON, SWEETHEART! I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

I SWEAR I WILL!

Bullpen Bulletins

"PERSONALS!"

That's the title of the story which is begun, but not finished, in *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book*, in case you didn't know. That's the book in which I, the Editor in Chief of Mighty Marvel, give everyone out there who wants to be a comic book creator a chance to try out his or her skills under simulated professional working conditions, and possibly to create professional quality samples to submit to us (or any other company) when applying for a job. The *Try-Out Book* provides pages to color, to ink, to letter, to script, and to draw. Also, since I deliberately left out the ending of the story therein, the *Try-Out Book* gives a would-be comics creator a chance to try his hand at plotting — devising a way out of the mess in which I leave Spider-Man.

That brilliant maneuver has, apparently, left a lot of people frustrated. I've gotten tons of mail from people wanting to know how the story ends. The honest answer is... I don't know!

However, I've got yet another brilliant maneuver up my sleeve to solve this problem. Here's what we're going to do: — Run a *Try-Out Contest* and choose the best new penciler, inker, scripter, letterer, colorist, and you guessed it, plotter!

Let our *Try-Out Contest* winners finish the story, "Personals!", begun by myself, John Romita, Jr., Al Milgrom,

Jim Novak, and Christie Scheele in the *Try-Out Book*, and... — Publish the finished story in a Special Edition of *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

How about that? Details of the contest and info on how you can buy *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book* can be found elsewhere in this comic book! You don't have to buy a *Try-Out Book* to enter the contest (at \$12.95, it's not cheap!), but it does contain lots of useful information which may be helpful. Samples on your own paper will do.



HYPE BOX

SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — Even the bravest man will turn and run from a member of the Sisterhood! They are the best warriors their age has to offer — an elite corps of women mercenaries! What does it take to become a part of this fearsome fighting group? Find out as Barbara, a girl just entering womanhood, takes her final tests in the arts of warfare. If she passes, the world will be at her feet. If she doesn't... The **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL** — their story is brought to life through the talents of CHRISTY MARX (writer) and MIKE VOSBURG (artist). From EPIC COMICS.

GRAPHIC NOVEL #14 — SWASHBUCKLERS. It's about a rowdy band of pirates that sail the seas between planets! SWASHBUCKLERS! It's about a desperate battle to save Earth from the deadly threat of "The Colonizers!" SWASHBUCKLERS! It's about time you ran down to your bookstore to get your own copy of this masterpiece by BILL MANTLO / BUTCH GUICE (the team that raised the MICRONAUTS to new

heights of adventure!)! Soon to be an EPIC COMICS series!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — The destructive villainy of Juggernaut and Black Tom together would cause any normal man to head for the hills. Even a superhero would think twice about taking them on! Fortunately, Spider-Man and the X-Men have no such doubts, and the battle is on! LOUISE SIMONSON (writer) and GREG LAROCQUE, MIKE ESPOSITO, and VINNIE COLLETA (artists) really knocked themselves out on this final-issue extravaganza! It even, sports a BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH cover! But how can this be the end of MARVEL TEAM-UP? Well, all good things must come to an end, as they say to make room for something better! Be here in two months for the first issue of an all-new, all-great SPIDER-MAN title!

POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — He helped usher Luke Cage into the Marvel

CHANGES!

Jim Owsley has been promoted from Assistant Editor to Editor of the Spider-Man titles, replacing Danny Fingeroth, who, after eight years in the editing biz has bailed out to become a writer (exclusively for Marvel, natch!). Things have improved already with Owsley in command. No, I'm not talking about the comics. Danny's is a tough act to follow, though I'm sure Jim will do just fine. I'm talking about the office. Gone is Dishevelled Danny's messy workspace, apparently to stay, is Jim's high-tech, high-class editorial environment, complete with chrome-and-glass desk, custom lighting, chairs, potted palms and, get this, a reclining palouche chair with matching beach ball.

Hmm. It's certainly cleaner looking, but you know, Danny's piles of junk and heaps of papers did have a certain repulsive charm. Sometimes, late at night, I'd swear they moved by themselves...

Oh, well. Congratulations to both of you guys!

AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT...... will be coming your way next month right in this column! It concerns a certain short-but-mighty barbarian...

Keep warm!

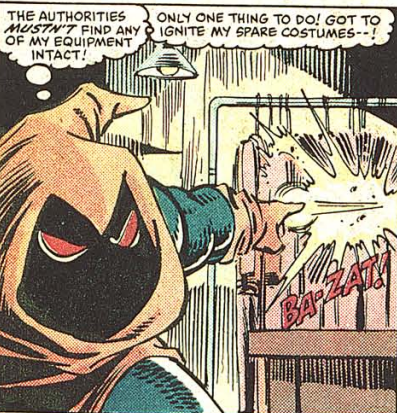
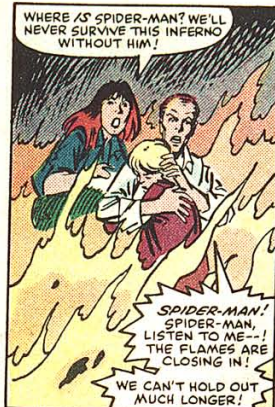
Steve
Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

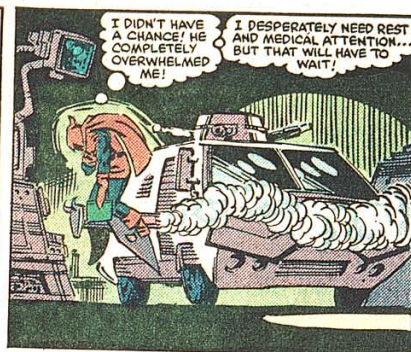
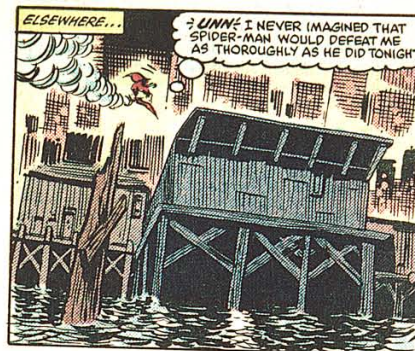
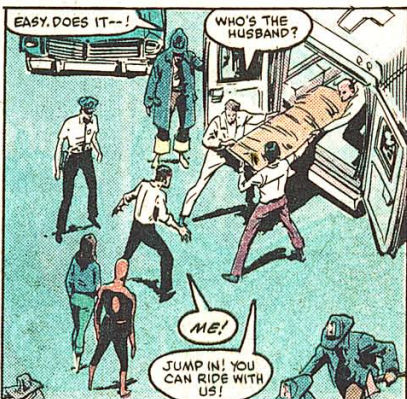
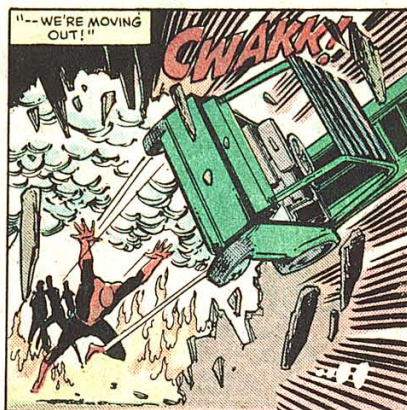
Age, and now he's back as guest penciler for an issue! That's right, it's BILLY GRAHAM penciling JIM OWSLEY's story about Gordy, the most harmless-looking little man Cage and the Fist have ever seen! However, Gordy is going to have a profound and dangerous effect on the lives of our Heroes for Hire! And with the growing threat of Control 7, a group of some of the most deadly and nefarious villains in the world, you know that this issue is not to be missed!

CRYSTAR #11 — Secrets are revealed, questions are answered and plot threads are tied up in "Resolution." Will it be a happy ending for Crystallium, or will it be more dangerous than anyone could imagine? You know something's up when Alpha Flight makes the scene! Don't miss any of the excitement in this final issue written by JO DUFFY and illustrated by RICARDO VILLAMONTE! Look for the cover by MICHAEL GOLDEN!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ THE THING #20
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #215
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #24
- ☐ RED SONJA #6
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #10 — Fantastic Four, Avengers, X-Men, Hulk, Klaw, Doom, Galactus. Beyond. Awesome!
- ☐ ICEMAN (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ BUCKAROO BANZAI (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #302
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #26
- ☐ POWER PACK #7
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #5
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #19
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #69
- ☐ CRYSTAR #11 — The end of an epic! See Hype Box.
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #304
- ☐ AVENGERS #252
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #167
- ☐ X-MEN #190
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #172 — Reprinting "The Final Chapter," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #33.
- ☐ ROM #63
- ☐ POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — Featuring a surprise guest penciler! See Hype Box.
- ☐ G.I. JOE #32
- ☐ KULL THE CONQUEROR #8
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- ☐ STARRIORS (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — Featuring Spider-Man and the Uncanny X-Men! Final double-sized issue! See Hype Box.
- ☐ STAR WARS #92
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- ☐ SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — In an age ancient and barbaric, they are the killer elite! See Hype Box.
- ☐ DREADSTAR #16
- ☐ TIME SPIRITS #2
- ☐ GRAPHIC NOVELS
- ☐ #14: SWASHBUCKLERS — Not what you might expect! See Hype Box.





NEXT

TRADE SECRET!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DONATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Mr. Fingeroth,

Wow! It's amazing how much Tom DeFalco was able to pack into 22 pages. Lots of action and plenty of characterization, with each one handled beautifully. Issue #254 is classic comic book storytelling!

The action was thrilling, with Rick Leonard's art giving a great visual account of Tom's script. Continuing the Hobgoblin storyline without actually using the Hobgoblin was a good touch. I was glad when the mystery villain revealed himself to be Jack O'Lantern. Hobgoblin (whom I believe will eventually reappear) should be left as a mystery a while longer.

The situation with Peter, Aunt May and Nathan was excellent. Pow! Did old Nathan Lubensky ever let Peter have it! Peter's ears will be ringing for a week!

Rod Wahowski
2307 Braidwood Rd.
Emmett, MI 48022

Dear Marvel,

I have never written to you before, but when a comic book like AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254 is done so well, I can't help writing. It was terrific, superb, and full of surprises! Josef Rubinstein's inking was excellent! Keep up the great work! Also, I can't wait to see the Hobgoblin again—he's a great foe for Spidey, and I'm sure he's still alive!

Joseph Morone
7410 Rutland
Detroit, MI 48228

Dear Tom and Danny,

Encore! Encore! You guys have done it again! You've created another Spidey classic in the overwhelming issue #254. I believe it even tops issue #253! The combination of Tom DeFalco's story and Rick Leonard's great penciling had beautiful results. And the new developments in Peter's life are startling. The return of Jack O'Lantern was fantastic, but I can hardly wait for the return of the Hobgoblin! With all the problems Spidey already has, the Hobgoblin's return is going to be something else! You guys have done a great job! The next few issues can't be as great as this issue, can they?

Tony Yee
325 Fairford St. West
Moose Jaw, Sask.
Canada S6H 1V8

Tony, everyone around the Bullpen is as excited about what's happening in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN as you are! Personally, I think the next few issues are going to knock your socks off, but as to how they'll stack up against issue #254—well, you'll have to let us know what you think about that!

Dear Tom and Rick,

In issue #254, Spider-Man is amazing indeed. Rick Leonard's pencils along with Josef Rubinstein's inks depict Spider-Man as foreboding and eerie. I have finally realized the purpose of his new costume—now, for the first time in his life, Spider-Man actually looks like a spider! In every single panel of issue #254, Leonard and Rubinstein drew the wallcrawler as I have never seen him before. The web-head looked like

a spider pouncing on his prey. In some panels, Leonard even drew several "Spider-Men" in order to give the reader a wonderful sense of motion! Needless to say, I thought the art and script in this issue were great.

Michael Souza
Route 2
Kenyon, R.I. 02836

Dear Spiderfolk,

Okay, add my name to the three million other people who thought the Hobgoblin was going to be in this issue! Gentlemen; I'm proud of you. I like to be surprised like that. Oh, I'm sure we'll see Hobby himself in a few issues, but this was a nice way of letting us know that you haven't killed off your hottest new villain! Unless... someone else was controlling the van!

Another thing I'm proud of you for is the kind of realism with which you're handling the Aunt May subplot. This is the kind of problem a superhero should have! I hope it's fixed soon of course, but till then I can live with it.

Vinnie Bartilucci
45 Newburgh St.
Elmont, NY 11003

Dear Spider Writers,

Although I thought SPIDER-MAN #254 was great, I want to comment on the treatment of Aunt May. For years, May Parker has been in the background as Peter's loving aunt. She was always around to make our hero feel like an innocent boy, and her kindness was taken for granted. Peter never felt he had to worry her about his life as Spidey. Now, May is building a real life, and she is showing that she can disapprove of Peter's actions. She has been hoping for years that Peter would become what she and Uncle Ben had worked to allow him to be. Now she is hit with this startling news: Peter has dropped out of college.

The most tragic thing of all is that Peter offered Aunt May no explanations for his dropping out. His reason for this is that he can't tell her he is Spider-Man. I think Peter should finally tell Aunt May about his dual identity. It might clear up this mess, and it would be a selfless gesture on Peter's part. I believe it is possible for Aunt May to come up with a better reply to Peter's admission than "Oh no, my heart!" May is a mature woman, and I think she could accept this without even passing out. After all, if she could accept the news of Peter's leaving college without hitting the floor, why not this? She might even be relieved to know that Peter has become the humanitarian that she and Ben had always hoped for, rather than the uncaring, bum photographer whom she now thinks she has for a nephew. After all her years of loving kindness, Peter Parker owes it to Aunt May to tell her, finally, that he is the Amazing Spider-Man.

Long Live Aunt May!

Alan Flyer
3 Maple Dr.
Port Washington, NY 11050

What do the rest of you think of Alan's proposition?

Dear Marvel,

All my life I have bought comics, and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is my favorite. Issue #254 was another great issue, but I do not like this problem between Aunt May and Peter. I never thought I would see the day when Aunt May would be mad with Pete. Still, she has good reason. Peter's dropping out of college was the worst mistake he's ever made. But bring Aunt May and Pete back together. I don't know what Spidey would do without her.

Michael Jarrette
111 Country Club Dr.
Florida, MI 10921

Dear Marvel,

SPIDER-MAN #254 was a wonderful issue with great action scenes. In fact, everything was great except for what's happening between Peter Parker and Aunt May. Why is she doing this to him? Have her lay off him. He's a good kid.

Oh yeah, is Nathan going to ask Aunt May to marry him? When are you going to let Reed Richards check out Spidey's new threads? When are you going to bring back the Hobgoblin? I need some answers!

Matt Cullen
4 Colgate Rd.
Great Neck, NY 11023

Most of your questions have been answered in the last few issues, Matt. And now, a letter of interest to all you armchair detectives out there...

Dear Tom, Danny and Jim,

In order to discover who the Hobgoblin really is, I finally decided to go through my entire Marvel collection and look for suspects. You know what? There are 243 people who could be the Hobgoblin!

Ronald Byrd
(no address given)

That's all? Check again, Ronald.

SPECIAL NOTE: This month's MARVEL TEAM-UP (on sale in two weeks) features a very special 150th issue double-sized pairing of Spider-Man and the X-Men! It's dynamite—and the last issue of TEAM-UP, too, which will be replaced the following month by the all new mag we could only call... THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN! Why the change? Not sales. They were better than ever. If you're curious, pick up MTU #149 or #150 for the explanation. Don't miss the end of TEAM-UP or the beginning of WEB, both integral parts in the modern-day mythic masterwork that is the saga of Spider-Man!

NEXT ISSUE: The fate of Liz, Harry, and their endangered unborn child! Plus, the return of a strange, octo-tentacled adversary from the web-slinger's past and startling new developments with two black Spider-Man costumes. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #262. It's not a mag you want to miss.

Danny Fingeroth

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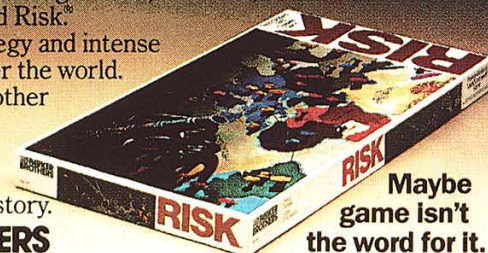


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